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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Jan. 3, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 31—Cranberries have jumped up to first place in the best buy list this week. There is a good supply and the price is lower. Now that all cuts of pork are appearing on the market again, try cooking pork chops with cranberries for a dinner treat. Combine a cup of raw cranberries with 3/4 cup of sugar and a half cup of bread crumbs, spread over browned chops and bake until tander. And, if you want to go right along with the good buys for today, start your dinner menu with broiled grapefruit as the price has dropped on this item too. Following through with this idea, complete your dinner with a lime and orange sherbet. Small and medium sized oranges are selling below previous ceiling and limes are in good supply and relatively inexpensive.

In the moderate supply list are apples, also good with all pork cuts and avocados which have dropped in price. You will also find that grapes, lemons and pears are in light supply and consequently fairly high.

Your dinner menu might well feature broccoli or cauliflower too as both rate top billing in the good buy list. And, of course, potatoes stay right up there at the top. For variety, serve eggplant occasionally also, fried, scalloped or in casserole with tomato. There will be plenty of lettuce and celery for your salads. This week another item has jumped up into the list of foods in plentiful supply .. rhubarb. Try sweetening this with honey or corn syrup for a change.

Dry onions, peppers, spinach, soft squash, sweet potatoes and fair quality tomatoes comprise the list of vegetables in moderate supply and second best buys. Peas are high right now and considered in light supply along with artichokes and snap beans.

(MORE)

Families in the Bay area ate a lot of turkey for Christmas this year. According to reports, turkey consumption during this last week was estimated at being the largest in recent years, in fact it is expected that all records will be broken when final reports on sales are tabulated. The demand was mostly for birds weighing 20 pounds or under -- light toms or hens. But, there are still plenty of large toms, weighing over 20 pounds available and relatively inexpensive. Other poultry and pork came in as second choice for Christmas dinners and other holiday entertaining.

There is an ample supply of beef, lamb and pork on the market today. Small, light lamb was in limited supply and although veal was a little more plentiful this last week, it was also a little higher in price. Pork continues to be one of the best meat buys.

The price of eggs on the market in this area dropped in some wholesale quarters as much as 5 cents on Grade A Large and Mediums on Tuesday, in line with the general trend elsewhere. Homemakers were asking for top quality eggs for holiday festivities but there were plenty of not only large but also medium and smalls on the market...all good buys.

Probably as a result of holiday cooking, sales of butter in San Francisco were up 15.9 percent over last week and about the same as Christmas week last year. Prices on this item showed no change since the drop of last week.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Jan. 10, 1947)

San Francisco, Jan. 7, 1947 -- Whether you want large oranges for slicing small oranges for juice, or medium sized ones for both purposes, you'll find that all sizes are good buys this week. And right up there at the top, too, stands grapefruit, and at a slightly lower price.

Down in the moderate good buy class we find apples, avocados and tangerines. There's no need to stress how good apples are eaten out of hand, baked, or in applesauce, but here's an idea for using the last two named. Fill the center of an avocado half with sections of tangerines. This is not only colorful but the green and the orange combination is delicious as well.

There is still a light supply of grapes and pears in the market but enough so that you can find plenty for your fruit bowl.

Those little miniature cabbages, Brussels sprouts, are in plentiful supply these days. Celery comes under this heading also and every bit of the bunch can be used if you serve the inner stalks on the relish plate or in salads, and utilize the outer stalks creamed, braised, or as seasoning in those hearty vegetable soups so popular these cold days. You can also add dry onions and potatoes to this soup to make it truly a "plentiful supply potage."

Broccoli, carrots, sweet potatoes, egg plant and bunched vegetables land in the moderate good buy class this week. Others in this category, but which have gone up a little in price, are cabbage, cauliflower and lettuce. Spinach also rates this classification, but the cost is down on this item.

Down in the light supply vegetable list are Bell peppers which are lower in cost, tomatoes which remain the same, and artichokes, beans, peas and soft squash, all of which have gone up in price.

(MORE)

"Chicken Every Sunday" seems to be a more or less established plan in the Bay area as dealers report that consumers bought the usual number of chickens for frying, broiling and stewing over the weekend. However, this week there appeared to be a shortage of good quality fowl of some types, although there was a good supply of leghorn broilers. And as you can't separate the hen from the egg, we might mention here that due to the five cent drop last week, dealers are limiting their purchases to some extent in expectation of other changes.

On the butter side of the picture, Grade A 92 score went down a couple of cents since last week on the wholesale market while Grade B 90 score butter dropped one cent. After the heavy buying during the holidays, sales have dropped somewhat, however, for the week ending December 27, 14.4 percent more butter moved into the stores and other retail outlets than the corresponding week last year.

Consumers are settling down now to regular fare on their tables after the heavy buying of the so-called "prime cuts" such as fillets, loins and smoked ham during the holidays. Practically all grades of beef are now available and there are ample supplies of smoked meats and fresh pork. On the other hand, there is a noticeable scarcity of lamb and veal. Of course, this is the season when lightweight Good to Choice veal is always scarce. The cost of the meat that is being served on the tables of the Bay Area is up a little.

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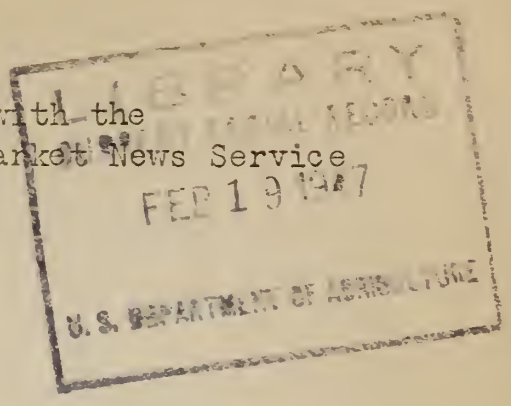

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Jan. 17, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 14, 1947 -- Oranges at the lowest prices in the last five years top the list of best fruit buys this week. Grapefruit is running a close second with no change in price from last week.

On apples there is no change and they add up to about a fair buy, along with avocados (slightly higher), pears, and tangerines.

Although lemons are still pretty high, they are lower priced than they have been.

Cold weather and frost damage are getting in their licks these days to result in less abundant supplies of some vegetables and higher prices. Artichokes are one of these suffering members, as well as cauliflower, lettuce and soft squash.

However, two "old faithfuls" -- the onion and the potato -- are still plentiful and unchanged in price. Other good buys include celery up a little in price and Banana hard squash.

Falling into the fair buy class with no appreciable price change are broccoli, carrots, and peppers (considering this season of the year).

Good quality tomatoes are rather scarce and high.

(MORE)

A glance meatwise tells us that prices are up from last week on both beef and pork. In the case of beef we find that supplies are barely able to keep up with the daily demand and that the quality of steer and heifer beef is mostly of Good grade with a sprinkling of Commercial. Fresh pork is more plentiful, but here again supplies are in broad demand. There's more fresh veal and lamb available, but owe mutton is very scarce.

Butter is not exactly taking a toboggan ride, but it is coming down in price. Grade A(92 Score) is 4 cents lower than last week at 71 cents per pound and Grade B(90 Score) is down 2 cents at 70 cents. When we stop to think that not so many weeks ago Grade A was 14 cents per pound higher and Grade B 9½ cents higher, it is easier to visualize that second piece of breakfast toast buttered. All over the country supplies are more abundant and here on our local San Francisco market there is some accumulation.

Eggs took another 2-cent drop yesterday on all grades. Grade A Large eggs are now quoted at 55 to 58½ cents per dozen, Mediums at 50½ to 53½, Smalls at 43½ to 46½, and Grade B Large at 43½ to 46½ cents. Lower prices on other markets, plus liberal offerings from other states are the reasons.

Wholesale poultry market quotations tell us that moderate supplies of almost all classes of poultry are anywhere from 1 to 4 cents per pound lower than last week. This being the case, it would seem that menu planning for this week could include an extra serving of the family's favorite poultry dish without too much strain upon the budget.

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MAR 14 1947

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Jan. 24, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 21 -- It's an orange and yellow fruit basket color scheme again this week, with oranges at a shade higher price taking top billing among the good fruit buys. Grapefruit takes second place at unchanged prices.

Tangerines are fairly reasonable in cost and of good quality, while lemons are quite a bit lower priced this week.

Avocados are higher, and although there are numerous varieties of apples on the market, they continue to be pretty high.

A good supply of coconuts from Mexico have arrived, but they are rather high priced, too.

Although there is an ample supply of bananas at hand, prices continued to stay up.

Pineapples are scarce.

On the vegetable side of things, we find onions and potatoes holding steadfast as good buys, while unfavorable weather continues to cut down the supply and raise prices on some other vegetables. No doubt the next best buy would be among the bunched vegetables such as beets, carrots and turnips.

Broccoli is a fairly good buy even though higher in price. Others coming in this class are Brussels sprouts, cauliflower (higher), celery, and peppers for this season of the year.

Both lettuce and tomatoes are in about normal supply but high in price.

Supplies of artichokes, cabbage, and soft squash are all feeling the effects of cold weather to result in higher prices.

(MORE)

This week's meat picture is not changed a great deal from that of last week. Beef is nearer to being in normal supply with the general quality of steer and heifer beef coming in grades of Commercial to Good. Cow beef is limited, and heifer beef is not as plentiful as it has been recently. Both veal and lamb are in about the same light supply at practically unchanged prices, but supplies of ewe mutton are a little heavier. Pork shows a fairly liberal supply and some ups and downs in price. Although the pork carcasses themselves are $2.00 lower, pork loins and spareribs are $2.00 higher. There is more heavy skinned ham to be had at prices a little lower, while there is no change on bacon.

The two-word phrase "buyer resistance," which seems to have taken root in American life these days, is still pulling down the price on butter. Grade A (92 Score) and Grade B (90 Score) are both 6 cents per pound lower than last week. Despite this, retail sales in San Francisco are roughly 14 per cent larger than last year's sales at this time. It is expected that an improved demand at these lower prices will clear accumulating supplies.

Even though cold weather has been holding back production of fresh eggs and top grades have been in best demand, prices are 2 cents per dozen lower on Grade A Large eggs and 1 cent lower on Mediums and Smalls. Grade B Large eggs are 3 to 5 cents per dozen lower.

There is enough of all classes of poultry to go around. Colored fowl and turkeys are only a shade lower priced. But otherwise, prices are ranging anywhere from 1 to 6 cents per pound lower. Broilers and fryers are down 2 to 3 cents; roasters are 5 to 6 cents lower; and Leghorn fowl is selling in a price range of 1 to 5 cents lower.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Jan. 31, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 28 -- This is NATIONAL ONION WEEK -- January 27 through February 1. Onions are one of the plentifuls now with a good supply of Red, Yellow and White Globes on this market. This being the case, wise homemakers will include an onion somewhere in the menu to give foods an extra dash of flavor. It isn't hard to do. White Globes are an especially good boiling onion to add to the vegetable plate, while both Red and Yellow Globes are equally good in salads, stuffings or dressings, or to add zest to that all-around favorite -- the hamburger.

Potatoes continue to hold the limelight right along with onions as one of the best buys, with heavier supplies of cauliflower next in line.

Fair buys this week include broccoli and bunched carrots, along with other moderately priced bunched vegetables.

Snap beans from Florida are coming in in good supply and are selling at prices lower than for the last couple of years.

Good quality artichokes are scarce and high. The same is true of lettuce, which is still feeling the effects of cold weather.

Hothouse rhubarb made this season's debut this week. And while the price is fairly high, it is lower than last year.

Into the fruit bowl go first oranges and grapefruit with prices just about the same as for last week. Tangerines, too, are a pretty good buy.

Some varieties of apples, such as the Rome Beauty -- an excellent baking apple -- and Watsonville Newtown Pippins, are fairly good buys now at lower prices. Other fruits in this class are moderately priced avocados and lemons. Pears are also selling at prices a shade lower and they gain entrance into this fair buy group.

(MORE)

This week's outstanding feature in the meat picture is the fact that supplies of beef are more than ample and are of the best quality offered so far this year. Prices are lower, too, with steer and heifer beef down one dollar and cow beef two dollars less. In the case of veal, local supply and demand are fairly well balanced on a quality that ranges mainly Good and Commercial. The bulk of lamb supplies are of Commercial to Choice grade and are being cleared daily. But there is only a moderate demand for liberal supplies of ewe mutton. Supplies of fresh pork are more than ample with the result that some carcasses have failed to clear on a daily basis. There is no change on smoked bacon, but hams are moving slowly.

Butter prices are lower than last week by only one cent per pound on Grade A (92 Score) but 4 cents on Grade B (90 Score). These declines have been following the pattern of lower prices on Eastern markets. But yesterday (Monday) Grade A regained one cent to a quotation of 64 cents per pound. Demand is improving at these prices, while supplies are slightly heavier.

As egg production continues to become heavier, prices continue downward. Yesterday (Monday) Grade A Large eggs took a 3-cent per dozen price drop to a level of 53 to 53½ cents and Mediums went down 2 cents to 50 to 50½ cents.

Budget-minded homemakers should have no difficulty choosing a bird to their liking. Heavy supplies of poultry -- especially Leghorn fowl -- are arriving on the market. There is also a good supply of broilers, fryers and roasting chickens. Except for turkeys, which are still selling at the same prices as last week, prices are lower on all classes. Broilers are selling 2 to 3 cents per pound lower; small fryers are 4 cents less; and fryers weighing 3 to 4 pounds are down 2 to 3 cents. All weights of Leghorn fowl are 1 to 2 cents lower, while colored hens are 3 to 4 cents per pound less. Even though demand has been stimulated by these lower prices, it has not been sufficient to daily clear the supplies.

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